WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A computer-implemented method of providing access to grid computing resources available to a plurality of users, comprising:

receiving, from a requesting entity, a request to use a specific grid computing resource to perform a defined function; and

routing the request to the specific grid computing resource in accordance with the request.

2.   The method of claim 1, the resource specific criterion is selected from one of an operating system criterion, a central processing unit criterion, a memory criterion, a hard disk criterion and a combination thereof.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

performing the defined function using the specific grid computing resource; and

returning a result to the requesting entity indicating performance of the defined function.

4.   The method of claim 1, further comprising, prior to routing the request, determining availability of the specific grid computing resource.

5.   The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a price to be charged for fulfilling the request.

6.   The method of claim 5, further comprising charging the price for fulfilling the request.

7. A computer-implemented method of providing access to grid computing resources available to a plurality of users, comprising:

receiving, from a requesting entity, a request comprising (i) a defined function to be performed and (ii) a resource specific criterion identifying a specific resource to perform the defined function; and

based on the resource specific criterion, identifying a grid computing resource as the specific resource to perform the defined function.

8. The method of claim 7, the resource specific criterion is a system configuration and wherein identifying comprises matching the system configuration to the grid computing resource.

9. The method of claim 7, the resource specific criterion is selected from one of an operating system criterion, a central processing unit criterion, a memory criterion, a hard disk criterion and a combination thereof.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies a particular computer and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying the particular computer.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies particular computer hardware and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying a particular computer having the particular computer hardware.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies particular computer software and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying a particular computer having the particular computer software.

13. The method of claim 7, further comprising routing the request to perform the defined function to the grid computing resource.

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14. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

performing the defined function using the grid computing resource; and

returning a result to the requesting entity indicating performance of the defined function.

15. The method of claim 7, further comprising, prior to routing the request, determining availability of the specific grid computing resource.

16. The method of claim 7, further comprising determining a price to be charged for fulfilling the request.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising charging the price for fulfilling the request.

18. A computer-implemented method of providing access to grid computing resources available to a plurality of users, comprising:

receiving, from a requesting entity, a plurality of requests related to a benchmarking operation, wherein at least one of the requests comprises a defined function to be performed and at least each of the remaining requests comprise a different resource specific criterion identifying a different specific resource to perform the defined function;

based on each resource specific criterion, identifying a grid computing resource as the specific resource to perform the defined function, wherein a different grid computing resource is identified for each different resource specific criterion; and

submitting each request to perform the defined function to an appropriate grid resource according to the respective different resource specific criterions.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein each different resource specific criterion uniquely identifies a different particular computer and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying the particular computer.

20.   The method of claim 18, wherein each different resource specific criterion uniquely identifies different particular computer hardware and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying a particular computer having the particular computer hardware.

21.   The method of claim 18, wherein each different resource specific criterion uniquely identifies different particular computer software and wherein identifying the grid computing resource comprises identifying a particular computer having the particular computer software.

22.   The method of claim 18, wherein each different resource specific criterion is selected from one of an operating system criterion, a central processing unit criterion, a memory criterion, a hard disk criterion and a combination thereof.

23.   The method of claim 18, further comprising:
        performing the defined function using the identified grid computing resource; and
        returning a result to the requesting entity indicating performance of the defined
function.

24.   The method of claim 18, further comprising determining a price to be charged for fulfilling the requests.

25.   The method of claim 24, further comprising charging the price for fulfilling the request.

26.   A computerized environment, comprising:

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a request manager configured to:

receive, from a requesting entity, a request comprising (i) a defined function to be performed and (ii) a resource specific criterion identifying a specific resource to perform the defined function;

based on the resource specific criterion, identify a grid computing resource as the specific resource to perform the defined function, the identified grid computing resource being one of a plurality of resources of a computing grid; and

route the request to the identified grid computing resource.

27.   The computerized environment of claim 26, wherein the request manager is further configured to determine a price to be charged for fulfilling the request.

28.   The computerized environment of claim 26, further comprising the computing grid which is accessible to a plurality of user via the request manager.

29.   The computerized environment of claim 28, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies the identified grid computing resource.

30.   The computerized environment of claim 28, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies different particular computer hardware.

31.   The computerized environment of claim 28, wherein the resource specific criterion uniquely identifies computer software.

32.   A computer-implemented method of providing access to a computing grid available to a plurality of users, comprising:

receiving a plurality of requests each comprising (i) a queue criterion and (ii) a defined function to be performed by at least one computing resource of the computing grid; and

placing each request on a different one of a plurality of queues according to the respective queue criterion.

33.   The method of claim 32, wherein the queue criterion specifies one of a processing priority for the defined function, a dedicated resource of the computing grid for performing the defined function and a specific system configuration of a resource of the computing grid for performing the defined function.

34.   The method of claim 32, further comprising:

removing each request from its respective queue; and

processing each request in a manner consistent with an attribute of its respective queue.

35.   A computerized environment, comprising:

a plurality of queues each configured for different request types; and

a request manager configured to:

receive a plurality of requests each comprising (i) a queue criterion and (ii) a defined function to be performed by at least one computing resource of a computing grid; and

place each request on a different one of the plurality of queues according to the respective queue criterion.

36.   The computerized environment of claim 35, wherein the request manager is further configured to determine a price to be charged for fulfilling each request.

37.   The computerized environment of claim 35, wherein each queue of the plurality of queues is associated with a different pricing level and wherein the request manager is further configured to determine a price to be charged for fulfilling each request based on its respective queue.

38.   The computerized environment of claim 35, further comprising the computing grid which is accessible to a plurality of user via the request manager.